

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06911 190240Z

64

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR - PORTUGAL'S STATEMENT IN UN SECURITY
COUNCIL DECEMBER 18, 1975

REF: USUN 6870 (NOTAL)

1. PORTUGAL'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GALVAO TELES MADE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT DECEMBER 18 DURING UN SECURITY COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR:

MR. PRESIDENT,

WHILE SPEECHES ARE BEING DELIVERED, WHILE GRAVE
ACCUSATIONS ARE BEING MADE, WHILE TIMID EXCUSES ARE BEING
PRESENTED, WITHOUT CONVINCING ANYONE, BRIEFLY, WHILE TIME
PASSES IN TIMOR THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS CONTINUE TO SUFFER
FROM THE TRAGEDIES OF WAR. FROM OCCUPATION, UNCERTAINTIES
ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. THE FACTS ARE THERE BEFORE EVERYONE.
NO ONE CHALLENGES THEM. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER IN
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PAGE 02 USUN N 06911 190240Z

THIS RESPECT ARE CLEAR AND PEREMPTORY. NO ONE CHALLENGES

THEM. NOW IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE APPROPRIATE ACTION
MUST BE TAKEN.

PORTUGAL FOR ITS PART AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER MUST DO ITS
UTMOST -- EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS ABILITY -- TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE
FOR THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT
TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL
WILL SURELY NOT FAIL AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DID IN RESOLUTION
3485 (XXX) TO VIGOROUSLY CONDEMN THE AGGRESSION COMMITTED BY
INDONESIA. BUT AS WE HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS,
THE PRINCIPLE PROBLEM IS TO FIND A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT FOR THE CONFLICT IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR, MAKING ITS
POSSIBLE FOR THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION IN THE TERRITORY
TO MOVE AHEAD.

IT IS THEN TO CO-OPERATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE SEARCH FOR
A SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM THAT I AM TAKING THE FLOOR ONCE AGAIN
IN THE COUNCIL. MR. PRESIDENT, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON
A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HAS STATED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO
ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER
OVER TIMOR. HOWEVER, IN AS MUCH AS EXTERNAL FACTORS HAVE
MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO EXERCISE THAT AUTHORITY AND IN VIEW
OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS A TERRITORY WHICH IS A NON-
SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS
SPECIAL OBLIGATIONS. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ACTIVE
INTERVENTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS
NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE TO THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR
EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. FOR THAT REASON
WE BELIEVE THAT IF PEACE IS TO BE RESTORED TO THE TERRITORY,
IF DECOLONIZATION IS TO BE COMPLETED AS IT SHOULD,
IT IS URGENT THAT A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL GO TO TIMOR, TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION
THERE AND PROPOSE APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE RESTORATION OF
PEACE, BEARING IN MIND THE FACT THAT IT IS ONLY THROUGH
THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL SELF-DETERMINATION
ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR THAT PEACE AND SECURITY
CAN BE GUARANTEED. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BEARING IN MIND
THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WILL NOT FAIL TO ACT IN CO-OPERATION
WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24. MAY I REMIND YOU, THAT
IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY
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PAGE 03 USUN N 06911 190240Z

MADE KNOWN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE, ITS WILLINGNESS
TO CO-OPERATE TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITIES WITH THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE SO THAT IT MIGHT DISCHARGE ITS TASK UNDER PARAGRAPH
8 -- OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 8 -- OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
3485, NAMELY TO SEND, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A MISSION OF INQUIRY
TO THE TERRITORY OF TIMOR. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS
WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO RESTORE ORDER AND PEACE IN TIMOR
AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE INDONESIAN

TROOPS, AND TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE CIVIL AUTHORITY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORDS OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA. AN EFFECTIVE CIVIL AUTHORITY MAKING POSSIBLE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY UNTIL THE PEOPLE EXERCISE FREELY THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. THAT IS WHY PORTUGAL, WHILE CONTINUING, TO MAKE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH TALKS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF TIMOR IS PREPARED TO SEND TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND TO MAINTAIN THERE NAVAL MEANS TO ENSURE THE NECESSARY ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION.

PROVIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS BE RESPECTED:

FIRSTLY, INDONESIAN FORCES MUST WITHDRAW FROM THE TERRITORY OF TIMOR.

SECONDLY, INDONESIA MUST FORMALLY DECLARE THAT IT WILL COMMIT NO FURTHER AGGRESSION AGAINST TIMOR, AND THAT IT WILL REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN ANY MANNER WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE TERRITORY.

THIRDLY, THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN PARTICULAR AUSTRALIA MUST GUARANTEE PORTUGAL THE FACILITIES AND THE LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FREE ACCESS TO THE PORTS AND AIRPORTS TO REFUEL AND SO FORTH NECESSARY FOR PORTUGAL TO MAINTAIN IN TIMOR THE NAVAL MEANS AND MILITARY FORCES JUST MENTIONED. CONSEQUENTLY WE BELIEVED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND PORTUGAL AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER WITH A VIEW TO A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF TIMOR, WITH A VIEW FURTHER TO THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE TERRITORY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 06911 190240Z

DURING THE FIRST STAGE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO SEND TO TIMOR A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO NOT ONLY WOULD INQUIRE INTO THE SITUATION AND PROPOSE APPROPRIATE ACTION, BUT FURTHERMORE WOULD SUPERVISE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES. IN THE MEANTIME, ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION COLLECTED ON HIS MISSION AND ON THE BASIS OF SUGGESTIONS MADE PORTUGAL WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, TO HOLD A CONFERENCE WITH THE PARTIES REPRESENTATIVE OF EASTERN TIMOR WITH THE PARTICIPATION AS OBSERVERS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON HOW TO BRING ABOUT THE -- HOW TO GUARANTEE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY UNTIL SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE

PEOPLE OF TIMOR.

DURING THE SECOND STAGE, WHEN INDONESIANS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN
AND WHEN THE FORM OF ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN DECIDED UPON,
PORTUGAL WOULD ENSURE WITH ITS TROOPS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
THE UNITED NATIONS, WOULD GUARANTEE THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE
AND ORDER AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN THE TERRITORY, FOR
THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE SELF-DETERMINATION. IN
THE EVENT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD DEEM IT PREFERABLE
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER TO BE GUARANTEED BY THE CONTINGENTS
FROM VARIOUS STATES, WITH THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF THE
STATES OF THE AREA WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN THE CONFLICT,
THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE
IN SUCH A FORCE, PROVIDED THAT IT ASSUMED THE COMMAND.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.
MOYNIHAN

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